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A. CARTER WILDER.



MEMORIAL  
OF  
A. CARTER WILDER.

*With the Compliments of*

Mrs. Frances Hunter Wilder,

ROCHESTER.

DENVER, COL.. December, 1878.

*Original in the possession of Mrs. F. H. Wilder  
1878-*



MEMORIAL  
OF  
A. CARTER WILDER.



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## A. CARTER WILDER.

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[*Rochester Evening Express*, Dec. 23, 1875.]

The sad news, not altogether unanticipated, of the death of our gifted and honored townsman, Hon. A. Carter Wilder, was received this morning by his brother, Samuel Wilder, in a dispatch from San Francisco. His death took place last evening, December 22, 1875.

His many friends have noticed with great sorrow the gradual decline of his health during the past few years—the fact that his disease was making sure progress to a fatal result being too evident to all who observed his condition. A trip to Europe two years ago did little to check the malady, and a resort to our Southern climate, last year, was as ineffectual. The journey to California was undertaken in November last, with a view to test the healing effects of a more genial and equable temperature, but this has not stayed the inevitable result.

Mr. Wilder resided in Rochester some twenty-five years ago, and was engaged with his brothers in mercantile business. When attention began to be drawn to the desirable character of the Indian Territory, now embraced in the State of Kansas, he was among the first to visit and settle in that Territory, engaging with all his native zeal and enthusiasm in the efforts to forestall the inroad of slaveholders, who hoped to blight that virgin soil by planting slavery thereon. A man of fine presence, with the noble gift of eloquence and readiness of speech, he was one of

the most prominent of the protectors of that soil from the curse with which it was threatened. He remained on the ground until the conflict between the friends of freedom and the "Border Ruffians," advocates of slavery, was waged to a successful issue in behalf of free institutions. His services in that behalf were recognized by the noble men, who risked property and lives in that struggle for a great principle, and he was elected to represent Kansas in Congress. He was a member of that body during the most interesting period of its history, and was ranked among the able and influential members. He returned to Leavenworth, where he had valuable interests, and continued there until 1865, when he returned to Rochester, purchased the "Tallman Block" property, (now the *Evening Express* Building,) and soon after engaged with his brother, D. W. Wilder, and others, in the publication of the *Morning and Evening Express*. This he continued until 1868, when his brother returned to Kansas, and he sold his interest to his partners, and retired altogether from active pursuits. In 1872 he was elected Mayor of Rochester for a two years' term. His health becoming more precarious, he resigned in 1873 and made a trip to Europe, remaining abroad nearly a year. This is a brief history of his career. We cannot do full justice to it, or his personal merits, in a brief article. Had he been favored with a physical constitution equal to his mental endowments, he would have occupied a large place in public life. He used all of his native capital and kept nothing in reserve. He was accompanied to California by his wife, Mrs. Frank Little and Miss Fanny Wilder. The remains will be brought here for interment.

The following brief record of Mr. Wilder's personal history was taken from the Dictionary of Congress :

WILDER, A. CARTER.—He was born in Mendon, Worcester County, Mass., March 18, 1828 ; in 1850 removed to Rochester,

N. Y., and in 1857 to Kansas, where he was engaged in mercantile pursuits ; was a delegate to the Chicago National Convention in 1860, and in 1862 he was elected a Representative from Kansas to the Thirty-eighth Congress, serving on the Committee on Indian Affairs. He was a delegate to the Baltimore Republican Convention of 1864, and to the National Republican Conventions of 1868 and 1872.

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[*From the Rochester Union and Advertiser, Dec 23, 1875.*]

THE DEATH OF EX-MAYOR A. CARTER WILDER.

It will be with irrepressible sadness, though not with great surprise, that the many friends of Hon. A. Carter Wilder will learn that the menace of a fatal termination to his long illness has been fulfilled. He died in San Francisco at 9 o'clock last evening.

Mr. Wilder had been afflicted for some two years with what New York physicians had pronounced catarrhal consumption. He has twice been in Europe, the last time with the hope of benefiting his health, and last winter he resided in Florida. It was designed to spend the present inclement season in the genial climate of California, and for that purpose he left New York for San Francisco on the 5th of November. After stopping at various points he arrived at the latter city on the 6th of this month, and has since continued to decline. He was accompanied by his wife, by Mrs. Frank Little, and by a young niece of his.

Mr. Wilder was forty-seven years of age. Samuel Wilder of this city and D. W. Wilder of Leavenworth, Kansas, are brothers. He was born in Mendon, Worcester County, Mass., and first settled in Rochester in 1850. In 1857 he removed to

Kansas, where he engaged in mercantile pursuits and interested himself in political affairs. He was a delegate to the Chicago Republican Convention in 1860, where Lincoln was first nominated for the Presidency. In 1863-4 he represented the entire State of Kansas in Congress, the State at that time being entitled to but one member. He was elected over Marcus J. Parrott. At one time he occupied the position of paymaster or quartermaster in the army,\* and subsequently came to Rochester to reside, where he has since made it his home. In 1872 he was elected Mayor of the city for a term of two years, but resigned before the expiration of the term to go to Europe.

Mr. Wilder was a man of free hearted, generous impulses, genial disposition and liberal culture. He never made an enemy where it was possible to keep a friend. His fund of general information, treasured up in a retentive memory, made him a very interesting conversationalist. His death will be deeply regretted in the community.

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[*Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, Dec. 23, 1875.]

#### THE DEATH OF HON. A. CARTER WILDER

Took place in San Francisco on the evening of the 22d inst. The sad intelligence was not unexpected, as Mr. Wilder's health has been failing for some time. Consumption had attacked him, and though he had been able, by careful attention to the laws of health and the advice of the most skilled in medicine, to ward off

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\* He was appointed Brigade Commissary by President Lincoln, August 7, 1861—one of the first military appointments made by Mr. Lincoln in Kansas. His headquarters were at Fort Scott. The leading hotel in that city was named for him and is still called the Wilder House. The town, Wilder, in Johnson county, Kan., was named for his brother.

death for a long time, he has, at last, been called home. In the hope of regaining his health he visited Europe in 1873, and passed the winter of 1874-5 in Florida. It was the same mission that called him to California. He started from New York on the 5th of November, and was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Francis Little and his niece, Miss Fanny Wilder. After stopping to visit friends along the route, he arrived in San Francisco on the 6th inst. His health steadily failed, notwithstanding the assiduous attention of his friends and the best medical skill, and he died as above stated.

Mr. Wilder was born in Mendon, Worcester County, Mass., March 18, 1828. In 1850 he removed to this city. After seven years of active business life here he removed to Kansas. There he took a prominent position, not only in business affairs but in political life, and became well known in connection with Western politics; was elected a delegate to the Chicago Convention of 1860, by which Lincoln was nominated for the Presidency, and was sent in 1862 as a Representative to the Thirty-eighth Congress. In 1864 he attended the Baltimore Convention as a delegate. He was at one time a paymaster in the army. In 1865 he left Leavenworth and returned to this city, where he became engaged as a publisher of *The Evening Express*. In 1872 he was elected Mayor of the city of Rochester, but resigned before the end of his official term on account of failing health. Since then his health has been precarious, and he traveled extensively in the hope of improving it.

Mr. Wilder was a man of much ability, a free hearted, kind and cultured gentleman, whose foes were few and whose friends were many. His death will be deeply felt among the large circle of friends and acquaintances in this city. Samuel Wilder of this city and George and D. W. Wilder are his brothers.

[*From the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, March 3, 1876.*]

MEETING OF THE EX-MAYORS OF ROCHESTER.

The remains of the honored ex-Mayor, A. Carter Wilder, were committed to their last resting place yesterday afternoon, a large number of his former associates, city officials and the ex-Mayors of the city being present.

The remains, which were deposited in the vault at Mount Hope some time since, were taken thence and placed in the family vault.

Previous to attending the services the ex-Mayors of the city met in the Mayor's office and adopted the following official record :

"The announcement of the burial of another of our associates has convened us. The youngest member and latest accession to our number, A. Carter Wilder, died at San Francisco on Wednesday, the 22d day of December, 1875, and his remains are to be this day interred at Mount Hope Cemetery.

"The first of the Chief Magistrates of our city who was chosen for the prolonged term of two years, he was, in the fall of 1873, compelled, by the incipency of the disease which terminated his life, to resign the trust confided to him by his constituency.

"We mourn his early decease, as both a loss personal to ourselves and to this beloved city of his adoption.

"Recalling his transparent integrity of purpose, his unselfish devotion to all the trusts, public or private, which devolved upon him, his tolerance of all opinions, however adverse to his own ardently held convictions, the conspicuous courtesy of his manner which made for him attached friends out of all with whom he came into near relations, his free-hearted, open-handed generosity of nature, and the shrewd common sense

of his perceptions, we desire to record our sense of his many excellencies, and to convey to his family the assurance that we are mourners with them."

GEORGE G. CLARKSON, *President*.

JAMES BRACKETT, *Secretary*.

Rochester, N. Y., March 2d, 1876.

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ACTION TAKEN BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE MECHANICS SAVINGS BANK.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Mechanics Savings Bank of Rochester, held on Monday, January 3d, 1876. the following entry was, by a unanimous vote, directed to be made on the minutes.

Another of the trustees of this bank has entered into rest. This Board has received the saddening intelligence of the death of A. Carter Wilder, at the city of San Francisco, on Wednesday, the 22d day of December, 1875, one of the original incorporators of this institution. He gave to its early management efficient supervision and labor. Finding that his many and protracted absences from the city prevented him from bestowing upon its counsels that constant attention which he deemed to be due to a fiduciary position, he some years since resigned his trust. He yet retained, however, all of his original interest in the prosperity and usefulness of this corporation, and was to the last its ardent friend and, while at home, in almost daily contact with its working. A shrewd sagacity was the prominent characteristic of his mind, as was the sharp, incisive mother-wit of his speech. A gentleman in every fibre, his impulses were of the noblest, and ever penetrated by a catholic humanitarianism. To a generosity of disposition which was limitless he united a remarkable suavity

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and magnetism of manner—the index of a womanly warmth of heart—which made personal attachment the sure result of companionship, and the multitude of his friends who are now stricken as at a brother's loss is at once the highest attestation to his virtues and his most appropriate and effective eulogy.

The Trustees deeply sympathize with his bereaved family in this great affliction, and with the purpose of in some manner indicating their sense of personal loss in the early decease of their late associate, do hereby order this memorandum to be entered in their book of records, and that a copy be transmitted to Mrs. Wilder.

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[*From the Titusville (Pa.) Herald, Dec. 28, 1875.*]

THE LATE CARTER WILDER.

It is a melancholy duty to record the death of Hon. A. Carter Wilder, of Rochester, N. Y., which occurred at San Francisco a few days since. He had gone thither in quest of health, but fell a victim to that most inexorable and insidious of Death's messengers, consumption. Mr. Wilder was a Massachusetts boy, but came to Rochester in early manhood, and engaged in the mercantile business in what was then, as now, the leading dry goods house there, Wilder & Gorton's, later A. S. Mann's. At that era national events were of thrilling interest, and out of the exigencies of Freedom arose the Republican party, which said to Slavery, when the Missouri Compromise line was beaten down, "Hitherto hast thou come, but no further." It was Boston that was the prolific nursery of Anti-Slavery ideas, and the armory whence the brightest blades flashed forth to guard the tree of Liberty. Parker, Sumner and Phillips, Starr King and their

compeers, were wont at that period to electrify the country, and nowhere did they find a more congenial response than in Rochester. There were the old prophets of the Anti-Slavery faith, Lindley Murray Moore, Fred. Douglass, S. D. Porter, and others "who have entered into rest," but there were younger disciples, too, apt, ardent and devoted, who drank in the spirit of "the irrepressible conflict," and among the noble band was Carter Wilder. We well remember him then. Aristocratic in his tastes and associations, but Democratic in his feelings and manners, he made it fashionable in his circle to be radical and outspoken, to despise ecclesiastical timidity, and to rebuke the cowardice of party, over which the fell spirit of Slavery then glowered and domineered. He drew his sentiments from Whittier, Lowell, Emerson, and the worthies of the early *Atlantic*. He was well read in that literature that still sheds the glory of Athens around Boston and at that time transfigured Faneuil Hall into a Mars Hill. He went to Kansas to help make her a Free State, and became soon one of her leading spirits. He had the honor of representing that virgin State in Congress in 1862-4, a memorable and exciting period. No Territory ever went through such throes and convulsions as Kansas, and no State ever had such a baptism of flood and fire. With the inspiration of Liberty was alloyed the passion for official distinction and power. Every citizen was ready to fight and administer an office. Statesmen, politicians and shysters, principle, intrigue and corruption ruled the hour.

Such orators as Marc. Parrott and Jim Lane could only have been cradled in "Bleeding Kansas;" such terribly earnest men as old John Brown could only have got their "mission" there, gazing on the smoking ruins of homes and the graves of children massacred. Such editors, shooting at sight, could only have lived or died on the confines of civilization, meeting with an

irruption of barbarism. It was out of these factious elements, these bitter strifes, that Mr. Wilder issued a representative, and a faithful and honorable career he led at the beleaguered capital. The art of speaking must be acquired early, or not at all, in a distinguished form, and Mr. Wilder did not seek much eminence, and he was perhaps too critical and knew too much to attain the abandon of a public speaker, who is lost if he stops to think, and can only control others when he seems to lose himself. But socially he was strong, his manners sincere and unaffected, and his principles and his fidelity gave him influence and bound friends to him with "hooks of steel." His reading was wide and cultivated, his memory retentive, his judgment sound and discriminating, his colloquial gifts delightful. His health was not equal to the contentions of the most contentious of States. He returned to Rochester, and the Republican party took him up, and he became Mayor of that most princely of cities by a vote that attested the cordial attachment he was capable of inspiring, while disarming envy and enmity by a disposition that never asserted itself in disparaging comparisons with other men's talents or humbler fortunes. He had bought in and sold out an interest in the Rochester *Express*, one of the brightest and most vigorous of the daily press of Western New York, but this was only an episode. He had not the physical strength for an active career, and had soon to put aside the duties and burdens of life. It was only a few months since that we saw him in Rochester. He was one whom you would step out of your way to meet, and he had just returned from Italy, and had closed the eyes of one of his party, a relative, on that foreign shore. We saw with misgiving how attenuated he had become and worn to a shadow, and had a painful presentiment that this might be the last time for a friendly greeting and good-bye to Carter Wilder. We have said this much

as a posthumous tribute to one who has spoken to many younger and struggling men, less favored, words of kindness and encouragement, and of one who deserved to bear "the grand old name of Gentleman."

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[*From the Rocky Mountain News, Denver, Col.*]

DEATH OF AN EX-CONGRESSMAN.

The remains of Hon. A. C. Wilder passed through Cheyenne, a few days since, en route from San Francisco to Rochester, N. Y., for interment. Mr. Wilder came to Denver some weeks ago. He arrived here in a most delicate state of health, and his friends advised against any attempt to go further west. But, while pleased with Colorado, his reliance for restoration to health was wholly set upon California, and thither he went, only to grow worse and die shortly after arrival. A native of Massachusetts, but a resident for many years of Rochester, N. Y., Mr. Wilder removed to Kansas at an early day, taking an active and honorable part in the historic struggle of that commonwealth. In appreciation of his manly services the people there sent him to Congress, and at the expiration of his term he returned to Rochester, of which city he was afterward elected Mayor. He sought to arrest his failing health by travel and residence in Florida and the sanitariums beyond the sea. Mr. Wilder was a man of most pleasing address, varied abilities and splendid attainments, and among his admirers are some of the most prominent families of Denver.

[*From the Los Angeles (Cal.) Daily Herald, Dec. 29, 1875.*]

Hon. A. C. Wilder, of the Rochester *Express*, who died at the Palace Hotel last week, has had an eventful history. Many years ago he was a leading merchant of Leavenworth, Kansas, and represented the State in Congress from 1863 to 1865. He afterward returned to Rochester, N. Y., and was elected Mayor. Subsequently he went to Europe for his health, but was not benefited, and died in San Francisco last week. His brother, D. W. Wilder, is Auditor of the State of Kansas and the most brilliant editor in the Missouri valley.

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[*From the Lawrence (Kan.) Standard, Dec. 24, 1875.*]

DEATH OF HON. A. C. WILDER.

Very many of our readers will learn with deep and sincere regret of the death of Hon. A. C. Wilder, which occurred at San Francisco night before last. He passed through Kansas but a short time ago on his way to the Pacific coast, going there for the benefit of his health, which had not been good for some years. Mr. Wilder was well known in Kansas, having lived here many years. He was Representative in Congress from this State from 1863 to 1865. He was a man of good ability, active, energetic and public spirited, and has here many warm, devoted personal friends. Mr. Wilder was a brother of Hon. D. W. Wilder, State Auditor.

[*Topeka (Kan.) Commonwealth, Dec. 24, 1875.*]

DEATH OF A. C. WILDER.

A dispatch was received here yesterday announcing the death of A. Carter Wilder in San Francisco on the evening of the 22d inst. Mr. Wilder had been ill with consumption about three years, and said when he passed through here last month that he was taking his last journey.

He was born in Worcester County, Mass., and was forty-seven years of age. He first came to Kansas in 1857, took up his residence in Leavenworth and remained there until October, 1865. He took an active part in politics; was secretary and chairman of the first Republican committees, and was elected to Congress in 1862. After returning to Rochester, N. Y., he was elected Mayor, and once lacked only three votes of a nomination to Congress in that district.

As a Republican he was a radical, and a sincere believer in principles. He was an unusually good judge of character and of the course of public sentiment and events. His good humor, keen wit and kind heart made him very attractive and popular, and his death will be sincerely mourned wherever he was known.

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[*From the Lawrence (Kan.) Republican Journal, Dec. 25, 1875.*]

DEATH OF A. C. WILDER.

The death of Hon. A. C. Wilder, which was mentioned in our telegraphic dispatches yesterday morning, will cause a feeling of regret in the breasts of thousands of old Kansans, by whom he is well remembered.

Mr. Wilder was a brother of Hon. D. W. Wilder, Auditor of State. He settled in Leavenworth in March, 1857, and during

the Free State struggle, up to the admission of the State, was one of our most ardent and trusted workers. It was largely through his efforts, combined with those of D. R. Anthony, the Vaughans, Nelson McCracken, Henry J. Adams, and a few others, that Leavenworth was rescued in 1857 from the Pro-Slavery party.

In 1862 he was nominated and elected by the Republicans of Kansas to succeed Martin F. Conway in Congress. Mr. Wilder filled the office to the acceptance of his constituents, and ought to have been returned in 1864.

As a man he was of an unusually genial temperament, harmonious, bright and pungent in conversation, saying good things himself and appreciating them in others.

He removed to Rochester, N. Y., in 1865, and has since resided there, holding at one time the office of Mayor of the city.

A few weeks since he visited his brother in Topeka, on his way to California for his health, and at that time expressed the premonition that he was making his last journey. He died of consumption.

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[*From the Atchison (Kan.) Daily Champion, Dec. 25, 1875.*]

A. CARTER WILDER.

The telegraph brought intelligence, on Thursday night, of the death of Hon. A. Carter Wilder, which occurred at San Francisco, Cal., on the evening of the 22d inst.

Mr. Wilder was an old citizen of Kansas, and was elected to represent this State in Congress in 1862. He was born in Worcester County, Mass., and was forty-seven years of age. He came to Kansas in 1857 from Rochester, N. Y., locating in Leavenworth, where he continued to reside until October, 1865.

He then returned to Rochester, where he married, and engaged in business pursuits. He was subsequently elected Mayor of that city, and later he only lacked three votes of receiving the nomination for Congress from that district.

Mr. Wilder was an earnest Republican, and for many years was either secretary or chairman of the Republican State Central Committee in this State. He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention held at Chicago in 1860, and to that held at Baltimore four years later.

He was a man of great energy, thoroughly in earnest in everything he said or did, and very firm in his friendships. When enlisted in behalf either of a principle or a friend, he never tired in his work, and his unfailing good humor, his generosity, and his fidelity to his principles and convictions, secured for him the esteem of all who knew him, and made him a powerful advocate. He was one of the most entertaining companions we ever knew. His crisp, pungent speech, full alike of humor, sincerity and kindness, was always thoroughly enjoyable; his knowledge of men and estimate of character was rarely at fault; and his earnestness and enthusiasm, whether called into play in behalf of his convictions or his friends, never failed to command respect, if not success.

He had been ill with consumption for about three years past, and had gone to California seeking a restoration to health. He passed through Kansas last month, stopping for a few days at Topeka to see his brother, State Auditor Wilder. His death will be sincerely mourned by a large circle of friends, not only in Kansas, but in many other States of the Union.

[*From the Kansas Annual Register, for 1864.*]

SKETCH OF A. C. WILDER.

Abel Carter Wilder was born in Mendon (now Blackstone), Worcester County, Mass., March 18th, 1828. He is the sixth son of the late Dr. Abel Wilder, and a lineal descendant of Thomas Wilder, who was buried in Lancaster, Mass., in 1667. He has been in business as a merchant since he was eighteen years of age—at first in his native town, afterward with his brothers in Rochester, N. Y., and now in Leavenworth.

He went to Rochester in 1850. As chairman of the Lecture Committee he first invited to that city such radical men as Charles Sumner, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Wendell Phillips, and others. When George Thompson, the English Abolitionist, went there to speak, Mr. Wilder defended him in the liberal press against the pro-slavery rabble who attempted to mob him. In that city he began to take an active part in political affairs, acting with the Whigs and Free Soilers until the organization of the Republican party. Early in 1857 Mr. Wilder came to Kansas and settled in Leavenworth. He very soon found himself actively engaged in supporting with his time and means the Free State party, which was then in the minority in that city and county. None worked more diligently for that cause and few more effectively, for he was never a candidate for office, and his most bitter opponents never questioned his sincerity. For the past seven years he has been an earnest advocate of the party of Freedom and equal rights in this State.

At the organization of the Republican party at Osawatomie in 1859, he was made secretary of the State Central Committee, and at each of the two subsequent State Conventions he was made chairman of that Committee. In this position he did much

toward perfecting the organization under which Kansas became a Free State.

In 1860, he was chairman of the Kansas delegation in the National Republican Convention at Chicago, and voted for William H. Seward for President, and John Hickman, of Pennsylvania, for Vice President. In the autumn of that year, when Mr. Seward visited Kansas, Mr. Wilder made the following welcoming address at Leavenworth :

“ SENATOR SEWARD :—I am charged with the very honorable and grateful duty of expressing to you the profound regard and affectionate esteem of my fellow citizens assembled before you, and to extend to you a most cordial welcome to this metropolis of Kansas. We have watched, with pride and gratification, the demonstrations of respect and kindness which have attended every step of your journey from Auburn to Leavenworth.

“ Such sincere homage is due to your character and illustrious public services, and no people have more reason to manifest their gratitude for your fidelity and friendship than the free people of Kansas.

“ Though holding a seat in the United States Senate from the State of New York, Kansas and the Pacific claim you as their Senator and statesman ; for when you retire, as perhaps you will do on the fourth of March next, from a place to which the Empire State deputed you as her Senator, and when one who reads the record of your speeches and your votes is asked—what State did the occupant of that vacant chair represent ?—he will be forced to answer, I cannot tell !

“ Judging from your acts, it would seem that, whosoever were meek and lowly, whosoever brought peril and reproach upon their advocate, whosoever could do nothing in return for countenance and support rendered, they were the persons whom you put

yourself forward to represent and defend. You took upon yourself the burdens which others rejected, and braved the unpopularity by which others were dismayed.

“And thus the heart of the American people is with the man who was always in advance of their opinions, always seeing clearly at the *hour* the truth which was to dawn upon their visions after it had been derided for many days; always combating for the right, which had not yet become respected and acknowledged.”

In August, 1861, he was made a Captain in the Kansas Brigade, served in the field and at Fort Scott, and remained in the service a year.

On the 28th of August, 1862, on the invitation of the Republican party, Mr. Wilder delivered an address in Turner Hall, which concluded as follows :

“The duty of Kansas in this fierce conflict—a conflict which can be repressed only by the triumph of Freedom—is not doubtful or uncertain. To us belongs the high honor of bearing the flag and leading the van. We are leaders. In virtue of having made the first stand against the barbaric hordes of Slavery, in virtue of having rallied to the defense of the Union with greater unanimity than the people of any other State, and in virtue of always having held steadfast to the great principles which animate the contest, the name of Kansas stands emblazoned as first in the royal roll of loyal States.

“Even while I speak the brave sons of Kansas are once more coming forward in answer to the call of their country. They come with confidence and enthusiastic ardor. They do not and cannot despair of the Republic. And the blood of these freemen will be freely given in defense of that cause for which we have pledged our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.”

In the fall of 1862 Mr. Wilder was elected to represent Kansas in Congress by a majority of over five thousand.

Few men in the State are better known or more generally respected. He is a tireless worker, is gifted with a keen sagacity, and his integrity of character was never doubted by friend or foe. These manly traits have given him warm friends in every part of the State, and have secured him an influence at Washington such as is rarely accorded to a new member.



## GENEALOGY.

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"The first Wilder known in history was Nicholas, a military chieftain in the army of the Earl of Richmond, at the battle of Bosworth, in 1485. The fact that it is a German name, and that it is quite common in some parts of Germany at the present time, would indicate that he was one of those who came with the Earl from France, and landed at Milford Haven. \* \* \* On the 15th of April, 1497, (being the twelfth of the reign of Henry VII.,) he gave to his friend, as a token of his favor, a landed estate, with a coat of arms. That estate is still held by his heirs."—*From the "Book of the Wilders," by Rev. Moses H. Wilder.*

Shiplake was the family residence; it is situated on the west bank of the Thames, three miles from Henley.

The names of the heads of families for four generations are: (1) Nicholas, (2) John, (3) John, and (4) Thomas. This Thomas died at Shiplake in 1634. Martha, his widow, left Shiplake in May, 1638, for the Colonies, in the ship Confidence, from Southampton, and settled in Hingham, Mass. It is believed that Thomas, of Charlestown, Mass., was her son. From him are descended all the Lancaster (Mass.) Wilders; the Hingham branch comes from Edward, a brother of Thomas.

I. Thomas was received into the Charlestown Church March 30, 1640, married Anna Eames the same year, and was admitted freeman June 2, 1641. It is believed that he was born in 1618. He removed to Lancaster July 1, 1659, and was a leading citizen and public officer until his death, Oct. 23, 1667.

The following is his oath as a freeman, or voter. Only members of the church could be voters:

I, Thomas Wilder, being, by God's providence, an inhabitant and freeman within the jurisdiction of this Commonwealth, do freely acknowledge myself to be subject to the government thereof, and therefore do here swear, by the great and dreadful name of the ever-living God, that I will be true and faithful to the same, and will accordingly yield assistance and support thereunto

with my person and estate, as in equity I am bound, and will also truly endeavor to maintain and preserve all the liberties and privileges thereof, submitting myself to the wholesome laws and orders made and established by the same; and, further, that I will not plot nor practice any evil against it, nor consent to any that shall do so, but will timely discover and reveal the same to lawful authority now here established, for the speedy preventing thereof. Moreover, I do solemnly bind myself, in the sight of God, that, when I shall be called to give my voice touching any such matter of this State, wherein freemen are to deal, I will give my vote and suffrage as I shall judge in mine own, conscience may conduce and tend to the public weal of the body, without respect of persons or favor of any man. So help me God, in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We get a picture of our Thomas and his love of fair play in the Baptist histories of Backus and Benedict. The first Baptist Church in Boston was founded first in Charlestown by Thomas Gould, but our Puritan ancestors tolerated no church but their own, the Congregational, of which nearly all the early Wilders were members. Thomas Gould related the manner in which he came to embrace Baptist sentiments and the treatment he received from the church in Charlestown. (See Benedict's History, Vol. I., pp. 385-6. Published 1813.) In 1655 he had a child born. He had scruples against having it baptized; the Elders of the church sent a note asking him to meet them at the Elder's house, and to send word what time of that day he would come. He did not go. On a Sunday, two months afterward, one of the Elders told him he must stop, for the church would speak with him. Master Sims (the minister) told the church in the meeting that Gould had lied, "for they sent to me to appoint the day. I replied again that there was no such thing in the letter. He replied again that they did not set down a time, and not a day, therefore he told me it was a lie. \* \* I still replied that there was no such thing in the letter, and thought I could produce the letter. They bid me let them see the letter, or they would proceed against me for a lie. Brother Thomas Wilder, sitting before me, stood up and told them that it was so in the letter as I said, for he read it when it came to me. But, they answered, it was not so, and bid him produce the letter or they would proceed with me. He said, I think I can produce the letter, and forthwith took it out of his pocket, which I wondered at, and I desired him to give it to Mr. Russell to read, and so he did, and he read it very faithfully, and it was just as I had said, that I must send them word what time of that day I would come down; so that their mouths were stopped, and Master Sims put it off and said he was mistaken, for he thought he had read it otherwise; 'but,' the Elder said, 'this is nothing; let us proceed with him for his judgment.'"

This picture ought to go into the next edition of the Wilder Book.

The children of Thomas and Anna were:

II. Mary, born June 30, 1642; Thomas, b. Sept. 14, 1644; John 1646; Elizabeth, 1648, and Nathaniel, 1650.

Thomas married Mary Houghton, June 17, 1678. Their children were:

III. James, born 1680; Joseph, born July 5, 1683; Sarah, b. 1685; Elizabeth, b. 1687; Anna, 1689, and Mary, b. 1691.

Joseph married Lucy Gardner in 1702. He was a member of the Legislature, Judge in the Courts in the province of Maine, Judge of Probate of Worcester County, and Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. He died May 26, 1757. His children were:

IV. Thomas, born in 1704; Andrew, b. 1706; Joseph, b. 1708, and Caleb, born in 1710.

Caleb was a Colonel in the Indian wars.\* He and his brother Joseph were engaged extensively and successfully in the manufacture of pot and pearl ashes. He was married to Abigail Carter Feb. 23, 1736, by Joseph Wilder, Esq. He was a deacon in the Congregational Church. He died in Lancaster in 1776, aged sixty-six, and his wife in 1802, at ninety-two years of age. Their children, all born in Lancaster, were:

V. Caleb, born and died in 1737; Samuel, born May 7, 1739; Caleb, July 1, 1741; Nahum, Aug. 18, 1743; Abigail, April 21, 1746; Levi, April 23, 1750, Sarah, Aug. 6, 1752, and Anna, July 10, 1755.

Samuel removed from Lancaster to Ashburnham, and became one of its most prominent citizens. He was a deacon in the church, a Justice of the Peace, was a member of the Legislature nearly a quarter of a century. He died May 9, 1798, aged 59. He married Dorothy Carter, of Lancaster, Feb. 18, 1768. They had twelve children. She died July 28, 1790, aged 40. One of her grandsons has a copy of two sermons delivered in her memory by Rev. John Cushing, A. M., and printed by Isaiah Thomas, at Worcester. Here are a few sentences copied from Mr. Cushing:

"And she was esteemed and beloved by all who were acquainted with her; and I am persuaded you will not charge me with partiality or flattery in anything I shall say concerning her. I cannot think I shall do justice if I pass her over without holding up to view something of her character.

"She was one of the first persons I saw upon coming to this town; and you are not to wonder if, by a two years' residence in the house with her, my acquaintance was more intimate than with others in town, and that I am most sensibly penetrated with grief for the loss of a friend whom I have ever found affectionate, sincere and faithful.

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\* Hon. Joseph Willard, in his History of Lancaster, says that fifteen Wilders from that town were soldiers in the Revolutionary army, and that the first person in the town who enlisted in the patriot army was a Wilder.

The histories of half a dozen towns in the vicinity of Lancaster show that their first settlers and pioneers were Wilders. No quotations from these histories are made in the valuable "Book of the Wilders" recently written and published by Rev. Moses H. Wilder.

"Without disparagement to others, it must be allowed that she was a person of large powers and abilities of mind, improved much by reading and conversation—all who knew her readily acknowledge it. She had a comely, open countenance, which was the index of a kind, benevolent heart, a heart which wished well to all, and which excited her to do good to all, especially such as were in want—she was liberal beyond her ability—such as went to her in straits were not turned away if she could help them. I doubt not there are those present who can witness to this.

"She was free and easy of access, and could make herself agreeable to the various sorts of persons into whose company she fell, was free from all haughtiness of behavior, so that her company was desired and sought after. 'She opened her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue was the law of kindness.' She was faithful in friendship, and her soul delighted in peace. She endeavored to obtain the character of a peacemaker, and so blameless was her life, that I know not that she had a personal enemy. 'Her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.'

"But to crown all, she was a Christian, and not one of a low form neither, in the school of Christ. 'She feared God above many.' From my first acquaintance (which was in the year 1768,) she appeared to have a sense of religion, and to feel the power of divine truths, and early devoted herself to God, and made a profession of religion which she held fast. She was diligent in the use of the means of grace, and was a growing Christian, not only in knowledge but in practice and experience. By improving her talents she gained more. She loved the Bible, and searched it, and acquired a good understanding of gospel truths and doctrines—she was certainly judicious and free from bigotry; her charity could embrace all who appeared to love the Lord Jesus, though they might differ from her in sentiments about non-essentials."

Their children were:

VI. Samuel, born October 18, 1769; Caleb, born August 26 and died August 28, 1771; Caleb, b. March 22, 1773; Nahum, March 1, 1775; Dorothy, March 14, 1777; Beulah, April 6, 1779; Ephraim, January 26, 1781, and died the 30th; Ephraim, June 7, 1782; Sarah, June 11, 1784; Abel, on Saturday, June 24, 1786; Thomas, July 7, 1788; Milton, June 30, 1790.

After the death of his wife, Dorothy, Dea. Samuel Wilder married her sister, the widow Abigail Carter Fairbanks, of Sterling, March 9, 1791. There were no children by the second marriage, and the new mother was a true mother to her sister's children.

She died November 20, 1815, aged 74.

Of the children, above named, Sarah died May 28, 1801; Samuel, at Lincoln, Mass., in 1822; Caleb at Ashburnham in 1834. [His son, Silas Whitney Wilder, was a well-known printer and publisher in Woonsocket, R. I., Dedham, Mass., Boston, and Toledo, Ohio.] Dorothy, the widow of Joseph Stone, died in January, 1847. Beulah died at Boston May 13, 1847. Her whole life was devoted to religious and missionary work, and the accumulations of her industry were given to charitable societies. Thomas was long a city missionary in Boston, and died while attending a religious meeting in Tremont Temple, May 31, 1866.

Abel, on the death of his parents, was placed under the guardianship of Capt. David Cushing, a brother of Rev. Dr. John Cushing. His boyhood was a sad and hard one, but he secured a good education without any assistance from others. When very young he earned enough by teaching school to enable him to attend the New Salem Academy, to study medicine, and to attend medical lectures at Dartmouth College.

He married Fanny Richardson of Winchendon, September 10, 1812. She was born in that town, November 13, 1788.

VII. David Smith, born in Winchendon, August 2, 1813. He now lives in Toledo, Ohio. Sarah, at Fitzwilliam, N. H., Jan. 7, 1815. A son born at the same time died at birth. She is now Mrs. Elijah Smith, and lives at Detroit, Mich. Charles, at Swanzy, N. H., May 30, 1817. He was a leading merchant in Rochester, N. Y., and died in 1857.

Caleb was born October 16, 1818, at Swanzy. He was a merchant in Rochester and a captain in the Ninth New York Regiment in Gen. Taylor's Division of the American Army in Mexico. He died in Rochester in 1852.

George was born at Walpole, Mass., Dec. 29, 1820. He has been a manufacturer in Massachusetts and a merchant in Toledo, Ohio, and in New York City. He now lives in Denver, Colorado.

Samuel was born October 21, 1824. Since 1843 he has been a merchant and banker in Rochester, N. Y., where he still lives.

Abigail Fairbanks was born October 13, 1826. She is now the widow of Mr. Adam Elder, and lives in Detroit.

Abel Carter was born March 18, 1828. The foregoing pages give some account of his character and career. He married, October 28, 1863, Miss Frances Hunter, only daughter of Mrs. Eliza Hunter, of Rochester, and that city is her home. Mrs. Hunter was the widow of Robert Hunter, Esq., of Albany, N. Y.

Maria Richardson was born April 8, 1830. She is now the widow of Capt. Horatio A. DuPuy, and her home is in Detroit.

Daniel Webster was born July 15, 1832. He graduated at Harvard in 1856; is an editor, and the author of the "Annals of Kansas."

The five last named were born in Mendon, now Blackstone, Mass.

Dr. Abel Wilder, the father of these children, died in New York City on February 6, 1864. Their mother died in Toledo, Dec. 22, 1874.

Both were persons of strong character and of the most tender affections. The father practiced medicine over forty years. He was commissioned as a Justice of the Peace by Governors of Massachusetts more than forty years. The civil and criminal trials of the town, and the Medical Society meetings, were held at his office. The Anti-Slavery speakers, from 1835 down, stopped at his house. He was the personal friend and fellow laborer of all that early band of

Abolitionists. In the cause of education he was equally in earnest. No word describes his character and life so well as the one now much abused, Reformer.

Here are the heads of families for six generations, the first born in England, and the rest in Massachusetts:

- I. Thomas, born 1618, died 1667; forty-nine years.
- II. Thomas, born 1644, died 1717; seventy-three years.
- III. Joseph, born 1683, died 1757; seventy-four years.
- IV. Caleb, born 1710, died 1776; sixty-six years.
- V. Samuel, born 1739, died 1798; fifty-nine years.
- VI. Abel, born 1786, died 1864; seventy-eight years.

Queen Elizabeth did not die till 1603, and Charles I. was not born till 1600. These few lives extend almost from the assassination of Henry III., in 1589, to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, in 1865.







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